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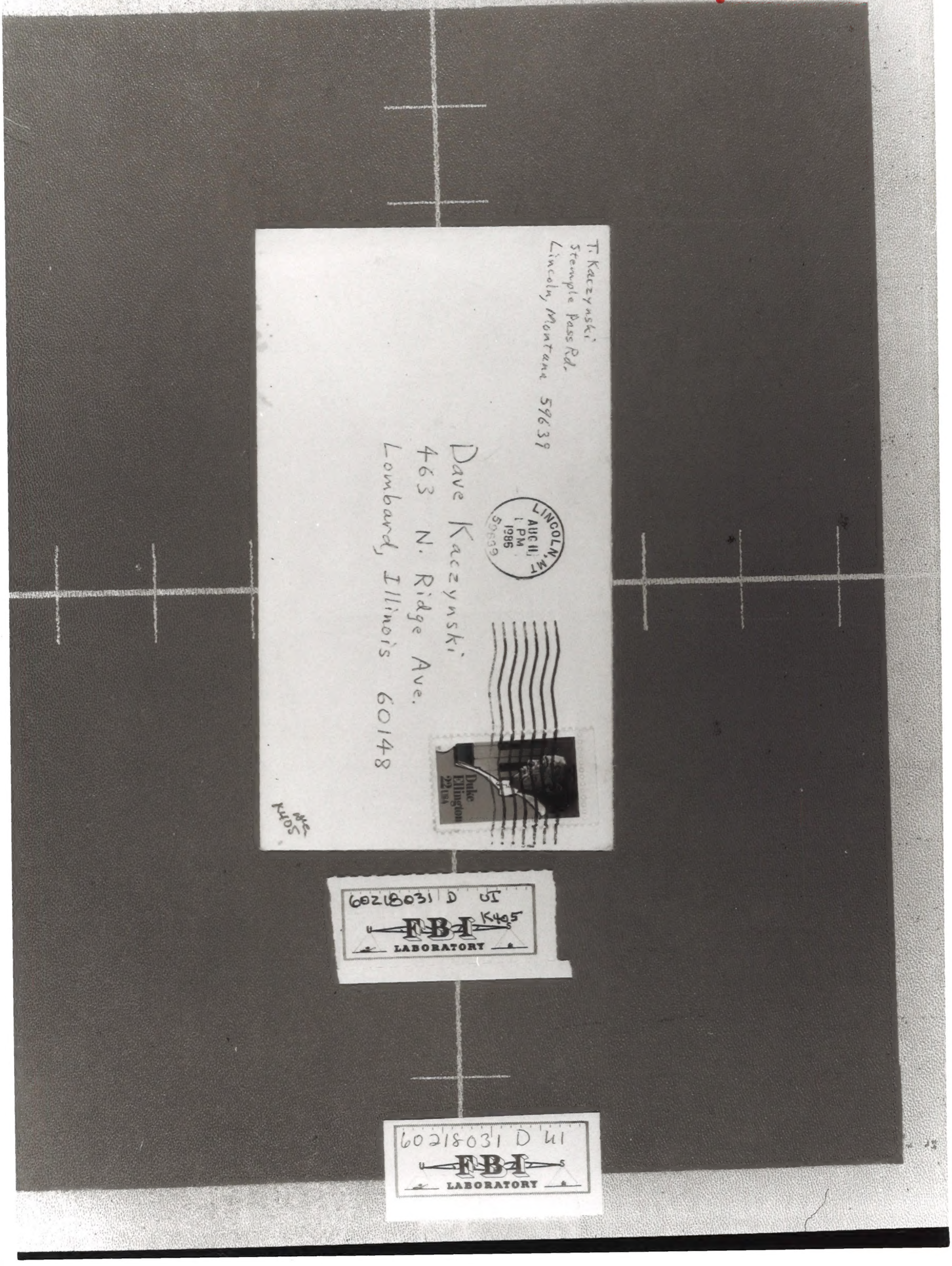

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Querido hermano:

Me agrado de que te hayas adelantado tanto en el estudio de español; claro está que ya lo lees bastante fácilmente. A propósito, cuando escribiste "escribir en el español", hubieras debido omitir la palabra "el". Cuando los nombres de idiomas se emplean con alguno de los verbos verbos hablar, escribir, estudiar, aprender, o saber (y creo que se podría agregar también a esta lista el verbo decir), y con las preposiciones en o de, o sin preposición, no se suele emplear el artículo el. Así: hablar en español, decirlo en español, aprender español, etc.

Lamento que tu equipo de softball tuviese poco éxito este año; en cambio, me agrado de que tuviese tanto éxito en los años anteriores. Hubieras debido seguir informándome de vuestras victorias, para que yo también pudiese tener el placer de vuestro éxito. Te felicito por haber conseguido dos shut-outs.

The fact that Joel's case doesn't clearly fit into any set of symptoms as described in the book by no means shows he doesn't have schizophrenia. If I remember correctly, the authors emphasized that the problem manifests itself in very diverse ways.

I still think there's a good chance that his problem is schizophrenia. Take his personal oddities, like the snots running down his lip. Is there any way of explaining this in terms of emotional needs or problems, philosophical attitudes, or anything of that sort? To me it sounds just senseless. This, together with his problem with his sense of time and his feeling of dissociation of mind and body, ~~suggest~~ to me an organic malfunction of the brain rather than a psychological problem.

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Schizophrenia, if I'm not mistaken, is the most common of the mental problems that are caused by organic malfunction of the brain. Of course, in Joel's case there's also the question of the old head injury, but, if he has an organic malfunction of the brain, it's rather beside the point whether it's schiz. or head injury or something else — he's still better off going to a brain specialist than going in for these crackpot treatments.

As for the side-effects of drugs, I don't know what those might be. You might try to dig up more information on the subject. Maybe the public health Dept., or a doctor, could direct you to a source of information; or you might try the Schizophrenia Foundation or whatever was the name of the organization that put out the book. Against the diminution of Joel's creativity that might be caused by the drugs one has to put the fact that he may be suffering. Basically the decision to use or not use such drugs ought to be up to Joel himself; but then there's the question of whether his judgement is impaired enough to prevent him from making an intelligent decision. Of course, there are many perfectly "normal" people who are incapable of making an intelligent decision, so if you're going to start trying to pressure people into doing what you think is right because they aren't capable of making an intelligent decision ... well, you can see where that leads. Still, he may be suffering.

One can — and in principle I think one ought to, ideally — reject any kind of technical intervention in the human mind. But if one does not take that point of view, then I think Joel's problem ought to be diagnosed by a specialist. Diagnosis would simply provide knowledge on

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the basis of which one could make a decision. The only reservation I have about that is that "crazy" people can be involuntarily committed to an institution, and, at least in some states, the legal safeguards against this are, or were until recently, very inadequate.* But, as long as Joel doesn't "make trouble", i.e. get violent or something, I don't imagine there would be any danger of his being committed involuntarily, unless his father, getting wind of an unfavorable diagnosis, might try to have him committed.

I'd enjoy having you for a visit this fall, if you care to come. But I'd like to have notice at least 3 weeks in advance of when you plan to arrive, which means you'd have to mail the letter a month in advance. I don't know yet whether I'll ride down to Texas with you — I'll have to decide.

With all that long-distance travelling you do, I hope you take good care of that car. I don't too much trust an old car for safety. When my car gave out and I traded it in for an old pickup, I noticed that the front wheels on the latter looked a little out of line. I took it in to have it examined. The mechanic asked me "How fast were you driving on the way here?" I said, "60 miles an hour." He said "Jeez, you're lucky. That ball joint was just ready to slip out of there." Which means that a front wheel would have fallen off. You might consider doing some of your travelling by

*See Insanity Inside Out, by Kenneth Donaldson. The author was apparently a paranoiac himself — though he refused to admit it. He was committed involuntarily by his parents and spent 15 years in the nuthouse under very bad conditions.

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train or bus. Might work out cheaper, too.

Te disculpaste por haber tardado tanto en contestar mi última carta. No fue menester disculparte. No te sientas obligado a contestar mis cartas con prontitud — a menos que se trate de algún asunto urgente que exija una respuesta pronta. Contesta mis cartas cuando te dé la gana. Si se siente uno obligado a contestar las cartas dentro de un plazo determinado, la correspondencia puede ser una molestia en vez de un placer o entretenimiento.

Getting back to this Joel business, I must say your reaction leaves me unsatisfied. You complain that the book didn't give enough information to enable you to recognize schizophrenia. But that's what the diagnostic tests are for — to tell whether someone has schizophrenia. You seem to want proof that Joel has schizophrenia *before* you induce him to see a doctor who can diagnose him. Since you don't seem to be opposed on general philosophical grounds to having him treated if he *does* have schiz, I don't understand why you are so *hesitant* about simply having him examined and diagnosed. It's obvious that Joel has a serious problem of *some* kind, and surely you'll admit that its nature is such as to indicate at least a *distinct possibility* of a physical problem in the brain, and whether that physical problem is schiz or something else, diagnosis by an expert is required — right? You seem to be very reluctant to face up to the fact that your friend likely has a brain problem.

Of course, it's true that the practical difficulties in getting him diagnosed might be considerable. He might agree to it and then never do anything about it so that you'd have to make an appointment for him and then go and fetch him to see that he keeps it. Doesn't he have some friends in Washington or some relatives other than his father who could work with him? You *might* try his father — maybe he's not as bad as Joel paints him. Considering the geographical distance between you, I can see that it might be impractical for you to work with Joel yourself. — Ted

P.S. If you come out here this fall, maybe I can use your car to take a driver's test and get a driver's licence.

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